# Minutes, Pedestrian Advisory Committee February 1, 2012

Present: Philip Ailiff, Neal Baxter, Amber Fink, Jack Garland, Matti Gurney, Dan Herber, Tony Hull, Amy Loegering, Julia Tabbut, Kelly Wilder; Rose Ryan, Joe Bernard, Sarah Stewart, Shaun Murphy

Chairman Matti called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM, and asked all present to introduce themselves.

## **Announcements & Agency Updates**

Rose Ryan: Hennepin County has begun to compose a Pedestrian Master Plan;

Tony Hull: the Improved Data Collection Workshop last weekend was most helpful

the Travel Monitoring Guide will soon be changed, which will affect how bikers and walkers are tallied

a one-day workshop hosted by the Minnesota Dept. of Transportation will publish Pedestrian and Bicycling data;

Joe Bernard: a meeting about the City's Climate Action Plan will commence at the downtown public library at 5:30 PM.

#### Approval of January 4 Notes

Discussion followed about the usefulness of meeting jointly with the Bicycle Advisory Committee:

the Committee found the precedent a useful one.

# Walk Friendly Recognition Program Feedback—Shaun Murphy

Shaun pointed out to the Committee what he considered the most interesting items from this document:

praise for our crosswalks was esp. lavish

Improvements advised by the award-giving entity:

look for, and team with, local advocacy groups;

work to arrest the decline in walking and using public transit (among commuters)

(a lively discussion followed about the numbers used to track these trends and their usefulness);

identify a target crash rule;

the City's Pedestrian Plan is wonderful;

transit options in Mpls are exceptional, as are parking standards, policies on sidewalk furniture and the City's planning in general;

make walking to school more common;

"disheartening" to learn that so little sidewalk is paved each year;

improve signage and crosswalk lines, and add more traffic calming devices to streets; Mpls needs more enforcement of traffic rules, and more imaginative ticketing; great to see that lots tickets are issued for parking too close to intersections.

This last item provoked discussion about enforcement, the usefulness of combining with the B.A.C. to urge the police to ticket more, and a suggestion that the most effective approach would frame this as a public safety issue, a winning tactic with the Police Department.

# Update on Bike/Pedestrian Coordinator Role—Shaun Murphy

Shaun's first thoughts were these:

the Pedestrian side of the job is new to him, but he embraces the portfolio eagerly; he's getting up to speed quickly;

issues covered by the Disabilities Act are of especial interest to him;

30% of traffic deaths are pedestrian: that's outlandishly high and the public needs to speak up louder and push for change harder (the Committee should serve to focus this response);

Shaun means to work on the following:

- A. Supervising. He will serve as Public Works staffer on both PAC & BAC, and work on the Master Plans;
- B. He'll review Capital Improvement Projects for their adequacy in meeting needs of pedestrians;
- C. He'll focus on street paving projects and on improving crosswalks;
- D. He'll also work on enforcement and on co-ordinating with other agencies.

# Update on BAC Engineering Meeting (Seven Corners Project)--Matti Gurney & Shaun Murphy

The plan includes bike lanes on both sides of Washington Avenue, a 6-foot median, and a bump out.

A discussion of sidewalk cafe seating ensued.

## Subcommittee Roles—Matti Gurney & Kelly Wilder

Shaun handed out a tentative plan for two subcommittees and what they would focus on.

Next, he laid out how the BAC developed its subcommittees, and allowed that these have enabled the BAC to take on more work and to work more effectively.

Tony urge that the Committee work quickly on this proposal, in order to implement it at our next meeting. Several committee members volunteered to work on it.

Other possible changes to the Committee:

adding a City Council representative

allowing "non-voting" staff members to vote on all PAC business

Names for the 3 subcommittees: Infrastructure, Programs & Policy, Accessibility An ad-hoc committee was formed to create these subcommittees.

Adjourned, at 5:30 PM